

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 8 has been amended. Thus, claims 8, 9 and 12-15 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In items 4 and 5 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 8, 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraser et al. (U.S. 5,788,068) in view of Marsilio et al. (U.S. 2002/0170838); and claims 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraser and Marsilio et al. in view of Flores, Jr. et al. (U.S. 2003/0015443). These rejections are believed moot in view of the above amendments to claim 8. Furthermore, these rejections are believed inapplicable to claims 8, 9 and 12-15, for the following reasons.

Claim 8 has now been amended to specify that the cover 2 is movable between an open position (see Fig. 1) and a closed position (see Fig. 4), and that a support plate 14 (Fig. 4) is formed so as to protrude from the connection portion 3, wherein the support plate is arranged to strike a back of the fall-off prevention pawl 11 and support the fall-off prevention pawl when the cover 2 is moved to the closed position (as shown in Fig. 4). Such a support plate is not disclosed in the Fraser patent, the Marsillio et al. reference or the Flores, Jr. et al. reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention of claim 8 is not anticipated by any of these references and, further, that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the Fraser et al. patent or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention as now recited in claim 8. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8, as well as claims 9 and 12-15 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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